

SOUTH DAKOTA FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK FARMS

News Release

February 28, 2003

FARM NUMBERS UNCHANGED FROM 2001

SIOUX FALLS, February 28, 2003 – The number of farms in South Dakota in 2002 is estimated at 32,500, unchanged from the previous six years, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 7 percent from 35,000 farms ten years ago and down 13 percent from 37,500 farms twenty years ago. Total land in farms, at 44 million acres, is unchanged from one year ago, as is the average farm size of 1,354 acres.

By sales class, there were 7,000 farms in the \$1,000-\$9,999 size group; 14,500 farms in the \$10,000-\$99,999 size group; and 11,000 farms in the \$100,000 and over sales group, all unchanged from 2001.

The number of farms and ranches raising livestock during 2002 totaled: 19,000 raising cattle, 16,800 raising beef cows, 1,200 dairy operations, 1,500 hog operations, and 2,300 operations raising sheep.

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